

Ops 2 - JN
30 Aug 1987JORDAN BUREAU

1. LOCAL STAFF: Monitorial strength is at TD of 15. All but the chief monitor are Jordanian. In the lower ranks, five monitors have less than three years experience. The sole associate is British, married to a Palestinian-Jordanian. Cruising is handled mostly by one of the monitorial supervisors.

2. PRODUCTION: Jordan Bureau's monthly publishable wordage increased substantially in the first half of the year, from a monthly average of 222,000 words in 1986 to 315,000 through June of this year. (Wordage dropped to only 207,000 words in July.) From Gulf Bureau, Jordan had picked up two monitors and primarily coverage of Manama WAKH and Sanaa Radio. According to the former bureau chief, the monitorial team has had no particular difficulty coping with the increased workload.

3. COVERAGE ISSUES

A. EVENING SHIFT: Baghdad INA has announced plans to extend its transmissions from 2000 to 2100 GMT effective 1 September. This may make it more difficult for the bureau to close regularly at its scheduled 2100 GMT time. Manama WAKH also transmits until 2100 GMT.

B. FACSIMILE: The bureau recently satisfied an urgent Wire request for a Kuwaiti press item by receiving the item via facsimile at the Intercontinental Hotel across the street. Direct access to a facsimile unit could facilitate bureau's acquisition of Arabic press materials, including the Syrian press, now handled by PMU, and the West Bank papers.

C. CRUISING: The local cruiser, or his supervisors, seems to anticipate every Middle East cruising requirement. No problems.